

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Warsaw Polytechnic Institute:

DATE DISTR.

17 MAR 1959

NO. PAGES

1

REFERENCES

RD

DATE OF  
INFO.

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PLACE &  
DATE ACQ.

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A report on the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute (Politechnika Warszawska)

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The report contains information on the location of the institute, its various departments, student enrollment, the curriculum - including data on secret notebooks issued for military studies; employment of graduates - voluntary and involuntary; student membership in Party organizations, activities of the Polish Students' Association and the League of Soldiers' Friends; student attitudes toward the Soviet government and people, towards Communist ideology and towards Polish national affairs; student behavior and moral standards; and staff members at the institute.

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1. The Warsaw Polytechnic Institute (Politechnika Warszawska) is composed of two sections: the main section is located at No. 1 Plac Jednosci Robotniczej, and the other at No. 86 Narbuta<sup>t</sup> Street. The school's official address is No. 12 Wolowska Street.

2. The Plac Jednosci Robotniczej section has the following departments: electricity, mechanical construction, aircraft engineering, geology or geodesy, building, transportation, architecture, and chemistry. The Narbuta<sup>t</sup> Street section contains the technological department, the department for automobiles and tractors, and the department for mechanical equipment, which is

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essentially a military department. The agricultural department holds some of its classes at Plac Jednosci Robotniczej and others in the Narbuta Street buildings.

3. The total enrollment of the college is estimated at 12,000. In 1955 the economic engineering section of the technological department had 70 second-term students. By 1957, i.e., the fourth term for this group of students, there were only 50 students, and in 1958, the graduation year, they had dwindled to 22. The following are details on the course of study in this period:

a. The academic year consisted of nine months. Of the three vacation months (July, August and September), one month was spent at a factory where the students worked in order to gain practical experience.

b. In the first year of study there were 46 class hours per week. Of these, six hours consisted of laboratory work; eight hours were devoted to military instruction, including drill exercises, small arms training and tactics up to company level;<sup>1</sup> and the rest of the time was spent in

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theoretical instruction, including four to six hours of political lectures, such as Marxism-Leninism and political economy. From time to time, political lectures were also given as part of the military instruction, especially on the anniversaries of famous battles.

c. In the second year of studies, there were 42 hours per week, of which six were spent in the laboratories and eight on military instruction. The latter consisted entirely of theoretical training in the operation of T-34 tanks. At this period all the students of the institute belonged to the armored corps. (This is not always the case since freshmen were sometimes enrolled in other branches, such as the infantry or artillery.) The rest of the time in the second year was taken up with theoretical lectures, including four to five hours of political instruction.

d. The third year of study consisted of 36 hours per week, including four to five hours for design, 16 hours for lectures (including three to four hours of political instruction), eight hours military training and the rest laboratory work. The military training included, in

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addition to the study of armored vehicles, instruction in the use of light weapons, heavy machine guns (CKM), and anti-chemical defense, the latter subject taking up not more than one hour a month. Instruction was also given in signals equipment and communications up to company level, which dealt particularly with the use of tank radio equipment, such as the RW-9 set. The latter could both receive and transmit, but not simultaneously.

e. The fourth year of study consisted of 36-38 hours of instruction per week, of which 18 were devoted to theoretical lectures, four to military training, two hours to work in the electrical laboratory (first semester only), and two hours in the laboratory for plastic materials (second semester only). The military studies continued with the subjects taken up in the third year; the practical training reached company level and the lectures dealt with units up to regimental level, including organizational methods. There were also lectures on weapons and other aspects of enemy armies, but these were not included in the material required for the examinations. Military studies

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were discontinued altogether after the first semester of this term and the rest of the time was spent on projects design.

f. For their military studies, the students were issued a secret notebook, stamped and bound in a manner designed to prevent the removal of pages. These notebooks were kept at school, locked up in special closets. They were used for making notes on lectures in chemical warfare, military tactics, mines, and atomic warfare. (The economic engineering section did not receive any instruction in the latter subject.) For other lectures the students used ordinary notebooks which they were permitted to take home. At the end of the fourth year of study, all students participated in summer exercises in the field (Poligon) which lasted from one to two months. At the end of the exercises examinations were held. Most students took little interest in their military training, partly because of the instructors, who were, on the whole, ignorant non-commissioned officers. The students, therefore, studied only the minimum necessary to pass the examinations and,

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despite their low caliber in this field, most of them did pass the final tests. If a student failed his military examinations, he had to undergo an additional two-week training period, after which he usually managed to pass. If a student failed the second examination, he would not receive his diploma.

g. The fifth year of study lasted for only one semester and consisted of 26 hours of lectures per week. At the end of the semester the students were given six weeks to prepare their diploma theses, the subject of which was assigned to each student.

4. Prior to 1957 there existed a system whereby the college administration could direct a graduate to a specific place of employment by issuing him a work order (Nakaz Pracy). The work orders were issued on the basis of industrial requirements for qualified technical personnel submitted by the various ministries concerned to the Ministry of Higher Education, which in turn passed on the requirements to the college administration. Since the salary paid to personnel directed to their jobs by a work order was much lower (700 zloty) than that paid for the same job

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obtained independently, the students did their best to avoid receiving a work order. Generally, the students tried to find a job as soon as they had completed their studies, and before handing in their theses. If a student had not yet received a work order, he could apply to the college administration for a certificate attesting to the fact that his thesis was due for presentation within six months. Such a certificate would usually enable him to find a job in a factory; in exceptional cases the college authorities would add a recommendation to the certificate which was of great help to the student in getting a job. If a student could prove he had a job waiting for him, he was permitted to accept it and was not given a work order. Ignoring a work order was a serious offense, punishable by a prison sentence.

5. The system of work orders was later abolished and since early 1957 the Ministry of Higher Education has not, as a rule, assigned jobs to graduating students. Now the factories advise the college administration of their requirements and the students are offered jobs, but they are not compelled to accept. The students usually succeed in finding jobs with better conditions

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on their own. Work orders are still issued by the Ministry of Higher Education for the graduates of those departments where there is a danger of unemployment.

6. Until 1956 the Communist Party had exercised a decisive influence in work orders, ensuring that graduates who were Party members received the more lucrative appointments. Even then, however, every graduate would not necessarily receive a work order. Today the Party has little to do with employment of college graduates, since most of them have no difficulty in finding jobs through their own efforts.

7. Since 1957 the Party has had little influence on the students themselves, and it appears that the number of Party members among them is rather low. About 80 percent of the students had belonged to the Communist Youth Organization (ZMP), which was disbanded in 1956. About 90 percent of its members had joined, not for ideological reasons, but because of the material advantages it would offer, or because they had been subjected to moral pressure. In 1957 the Socialist Youth Union (ZMS), which had been founded after the dissolution of the ZMP,

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succeeded in maintaining its own point of view and in serving as an outlet for student expression; the students would attend meetings even though they did not become actual members. Later, however, the ZMS' independence and freedom of expression were curtailed and it lost its importance as an organization, retaining very few members.

8. The Polish Students Association (ZSP) is very popular. This organization is similar to a trade union in that its main concern is for the students' social and economic situation. It arranges for the student's vacation, renders financial assistance, and medical care, has a say in the granting of scholarships, obtains theatre tickets at low prices, etc. Furthermore, the seniority of a college graduate in the professional union which he joins after graduation is calculated from the date of his joining the students association. Generally, the students association conducts its work in a fair manner, without undue influence or "pull".

9. There is a <sup>League of Soldiers' Friends (L.P.Z.)</sup> ~~Soldiers' Friendship League (L.P.Z.)~~ at Polish institutions of higher learning, which aims to instruct its members in gliding, automobile driving, and other such activities. At

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the Warsaw and Wroclaw Polytechnic Institutes, the League is of no importance and does not engage in any noteworthy activities.

10. Students generally like the Russian people. Very few admire Communist ideology, however, and most students are bitterly antagonistic to the Soviet regime, its leaders, and their modus operandi. Since the suppression of the newspaper Po Prostu, the students have become completely indifferent to the state of affairs in Poland. The only way they are likely to express their attitude is by telling a joke about the Polish or Soviet regime which by implication shows their hostility to both. National feeling among the students runs high and it may be assumed that they would show strong resistance to any attack on their country, from whatever side it might come. Hooliganism, excessive drinking, and the use of foul language is widespread among the students; parties taking place in the city often end in fights. The students are guilty of outrageous behavior in the streets, which often takes the form of unprovoked attacks on passersby. Relations between male and female students at the Institute are of a very low moral standard.

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*13.* The following individuals are on the staff of the  
Warsaw Polytechnic Institute:

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a. Prof. Bukowski (fmu), an expert in plastic process-  
ing of metals, is one of the professors in that faculty at  
the Institute.

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b. Docent Sewerin Hajtman is head of the economic engineering section of the mechanical-technological department.

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c. Prof. Grzegorz Halak is professor of industrial organization in the mechanical-technological department. He is also Director of the Institute for the Organization of Machine Industry (Instytut Organizacji Przemysłu Maszynowego).

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d. Prof. Kunstetter (fnu), an expert in machine tools, is deputy dean of the mechanical-technological department.

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e. Prof. Pelczinski (fmu), an expert in the plastic processing of metals, has been dean of the mechanical-technological department since 1957. In addition he retains the chair of plastic processing of metals.

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f. Prof. Janusz Tymowski holds the chair of technology of machine construction at the Institute.

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1.  Comment: This applies to the Warsaw Institute only;  
the Wroclaw Polytechnic Institute students belong exclusively  
to the corps of engineers.

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